

contained in the fields. Directory look-up is used to check whether the information is coded correctly. The checked, coded information is returned to the client over the network. Payment is received from the client according to the number of fields that were processed, based upon a price per field processed.

In rejecting claim 1, the Examiner asserted that Lorie discloses the steps of receiving images of fields from a client via a computer network and returning the checked coded information over the network to the client. There is no basis for this interpretation. As noted above, the operating environment described by Lorie has the form of a standalone computer. Lorie makes no mention of any sort of client, nor does he mention or even suggest that images might be sent over a computer network and coded information returned over the network. The Examiner maintained that Lorie teaches receiving images from a client via a computer network in col. 1, lines 16-30, and col. 8, lines 50-67. The passage in col. 1, however, refers simply to OCR in general, while the passage in col. 8 refers in passing to downloading software for purposes of implementing the disclosed invention.

The Examiner went on to state that Jansen discloses receiving payment for a service based upon a price per unit of service. In fact, as explained above, Jansen charges for service using a conventional model of price per unit time. He neither teaches nor suggests the notion of charging for processing fields containing information on the basis of a price per field, as required by claim 1.

MPEP 2143.03 states:

To establish *prima facie* obviousness of a claimed invention, all the claim limitations must be taught or suggested by the prior art. *In re Royka*, 490 F.2d 981, 180 USPQ 580 (CCPA 1974). "All words in a claim must be considered in judging the patentability of that claim against the prior art." *In re Wilson*, 424 F.2d 1382, 1385, 165 USPQ 494, 496 (CCPA 1970).

The Examiner has clearly failed to meet this burden with respect to the limitations of claim 1. Therefore, Applicant respectfully submits that claim 1 as amended is patentable over the cited art. In view of the patentability of claim 1, dependent claims 5-11 are also believed to be patentable.

Independent claims 19 and 35 respectively recite apparatus and a computer software product that operate on principles similar to the method of claim 1. Claims 19 and 35 are therefore believed to be patentable over the cited art for the reasons stated above. In view of the patentability of these independent claims, dependent claims 23-29 and 36 are also believed to be patentable.

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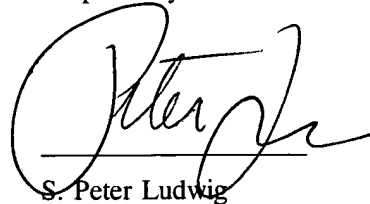
Claims 4 and 22 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) over Lorie in view of Jansen and further in view of Bruce et al. (U.S. Patent 6,741,724). Applicant respectfully traverses this rejection. In view of the patentability of amended claims 1 and 19, as explained above, dependent claims 4 and 22 are also believed to be patentable. Furthermore, as explained below, it is believed that Bruce may not be considered prior art against the present patent application, because the present invention was conceived prior to the filing date of Bruce.

Claims 12-16, 18, 30-34 and 37 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) over Lorie in view of Bruce, while claim 17 was rejected over Lorie in view of Bruce and further in view of Jansen. Applicant respectfully traverses this rejection. A Declaration under 37 CFR 1.131 is submitted herewith, proving that the invention recited in independent claims 12, 30 and 37 was conceived prior to the filing date of Bruce (March 24, 2000), and that Applicant diligently pursued the constructive reduction to practice of the present invention from March 24, 2000, up to the filing date of the present patent application. Consequently, Applicant submits that Bruce may not be considered prior art against the present patent application, and the rejection of claims 12-18, 30-34 and 37 should therefore be withdrawn.

Applicant believes the remarks presented hereinabove to be fully responsive to all of the grounds of rejection raised by the Examiner. In view of these remarks, Applicant respectfully submits that all of the claims in the present application are in order for allowance. Notice to this effect is hereby requested.

Date: December 6, 2005

Respectfully submitted

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "S. Peter Ludwig", written over a horizontal line.

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